

Valley Expedition. It is so clearly distinct from any other western species that the writer does not hesitate to propose it as new.

***Amelanchier covillei*** Standley, sp. nov.

Branches very stout, brownish red, glabrous; petioles stout, 3 to 10 mm. long; leaf blades oblong-orbicular to rounded-oval or rarely obovate-orbicular, 12 to 20 mm. long, 8 to 17 mm. wide, usually pointed at the apex and obtuse or sometimes rounded, obtuse or broadly rounded at the base, rather finely but irregularly crenate-serrate, the teeth apiculate, subcoriaceous, pale green and somewhat glaucous on the upper surface, paler green beneath, glabrous; racemes glabrous, rather densely few-flowered; pedicels 2 to 12 mm. long; ovary and calyx glabrous, the calyx lobes triangular-subulate, 2.5 mm. long; petals obovate-oblong, rounded at the apex, 5 to 6 mm. long, 2 to 2.5 mm. wide; fruit not seen.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 47,165, collected in Cottonwood Canyon, Panamint Mountains, California, May 27, 1891, by Frederick V. Coville and Frederick Funston (Death Valley Expedition No. 962).

This is related to *Amelanchier glabra* and *A. alnifolia*, but the petals are only half as long as in those species. The leaves are usually pointed, rather than broadly rounded or truncate, as in *A. glabra*, thicker and relatively narrower, while the petals are proportionally broader. *Amelanchier alnifolia*, likewise, has much broader, larger, thinner, and brighter green leaves than *A. covillei*.

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SNAKE FROM NORTHERN BRAZIL.

BY THOMAS BARBOUR.

While recently examining the specimens of the genus *Elapomorphus* preserved in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, I found a single specimen which I am unable to identify with any of the species of the genus hitherto described. It may be distinguished at once by its striking type of coloration and by its extremely small number of ventral scales. It may be known as

***Elapomorphus nuchalis* sp. nov.**

*Type*, a single specimen from Villa Bella on the Amazon River, above Santarem, Brazil, Mus. Comp. Zool. No. 1164, collected and presented by Rev. J. C. Fletcher in 1863.

Rostral a little broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals much shorter than the praefrontals, not over one-third their length; frontal once and a half times as long as broad, a little longer than its distance from the end of the snout, much shorter than the parietals, which are about once and a half times as long as broad; one prae- and two postoculars; temporals 1 plus 2; 7 upper labials, third and fourth entering the orbit; 4 lower labials in contact with the anterior chin shields, which are much longer than the posterior. Scales in 15 rows. Ventrals 147; anal divided; tail imperfect. Tawny brown above, finely dotted with darker; three very indistinct darker longitudinal lines which are just visible on the nape region disappear along the body and reappear upon the posterior extremity of the body and on the tail; tip of snout yellow, with small black spots; top of head from internasals to and including anterior two-thirds of parietals dark brown, posterior extremities of parietals and temporals included in an extension upward of the creamy white of the throat; these markings, however, do not meet above, but are separated by a narrow isthmus which connects a broad dark nuchal collar with the dark top of the head; nuchal collar not extending below the sides of the neck; bordered behind with cream color; lip region with

two yellow spots, one on the first and second labials, the other on the fifth and sixth; edges of lower lip with four dark dots on each side, all other lower surfaces creamy white, immaculate.

*Remarks.*—I found this species labelled *E. blumii*, a form with which it is doubtless closely related. I may add here that specimens which seem to be undoubtedly *blumii* from Rio Janeiro and Mendez, on the Parahyba River, vary somewhat in that the parietals may, in fully adult individuals, be very nearly twice as long as broad, while in younger examples the parietals are shorter. I do not know whether this fact is to be accounted for by individual variation or by change during growth, but I suspect that the relation has but very little diagnostic value, although it has been emphasized by Boulenger, who uses it in his key (Cat. Sn. Brit. Mus., Vol. 3, 1896, p. 239).